AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Amended) A transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXRα allele that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol.

2. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said cells comprise two endogenous altered LXRα alleles that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol.

4. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein a transcript produced from said endogenous altered LXRα allele contains an interruption in the LXRα coding sequence.

5. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein a transcript produced from said endogenous altered LXRα alleles both contain an interruption in the LXRα coding sequences.

6. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα allele contains a nonsense mutation that truncates the corresponding encoded LXRα polypeptide.

7. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα alleles both contain a nonsense mutation that truncates the corresponding encoded LXRα polypeptide.

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8. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα allele contains a deletion of LXRα coding sequences.

9. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα alleles both contain a deletion of LXRα coding sequences.

10. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα allele contains a mutation in the 5' regulatory region of the LXRα gene.

11. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said altered endogenous LXRα alleles both contain a mutation in the 5' regulatory region of the LXRα genes.

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21. (Amended) A method for screening a candidate substance for the ability to reduce cholesterol levels in a mammal comprising:

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(a) providing a transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXRα allele that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol;

(b) treating said mouse with said candidate substance; and

(c) monitoring a cholesterol-related phenotype in said mouse,

wherein a reduction in said cholesterol-related phenotype in said mouse treated with said candidate substance, as compared to a similar mouse not treated with said candidate substance, indicates that said candidate substance reduces cholesterol levels.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said cells comprise two endogenous altered LXRα alleles that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol.

27. (Amended) A method for screening a candidate substance for the ability to increase bile acid synthesis in a mammal comprising:

(a) providing a transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXRα allele that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol;

(b) treating said mouse with said candidate substance; and

(c) monitoring a bile acid-related phenotype in said mouse,

wherein an increase in said bile acid-related phenotype in said mouse treated with said candidate substance, as compared to a similar mouse not treated with said candidate substance, indicates that said candidate substance increases bile acid synthesis.